

THE RUTLAND HERALD.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1873.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

In the constitution of the United States, adopted in 1787, it was provided that each State should appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof might direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the State might be entitled in Congress. It then provided that these electors should meet in their respective States, and vote for two persons, of whom one at least should not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves, and after directing the manner of counting the votes, and declaring the result, it was declared that the person having the largest number of votes should be the President, if his vote was a majority of the whole number of electors, and, in every case, after the choice of President, the person having the greatest number of votes should be the Vice-President. This method of conducting a presidential election was the rule until the adoption of the twelfth amendment to the constitution in 1804, when the present mode of voting was established by that amendment.

There is an always has been, great dissatisfaction with this circuitous and round about way of conducting an election, and we are glad to see, that the action of last winter, whereby the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections were directed to inquire into the defects of the present electoral system and the best means for remedying them, is going to at least set on foot an agitation which will probably result in a reform. Under the present system no citizen, unless he be chosen an elector, can vote for President and Vice-President, except by the indirect method of voting for electors to cast the vote of his State. We know this mode was devised to conciliate the old idea of a federation of States, and that the nation was a union of States instead of individuals, and that the State was the unit in the national system, therefore in selecting the head executive, it would not be symmetrical for the vote to be taken otherwise than through State officers, chosen for that purpose; but we trust that the creation of a people, that have so authoritatively established a national citizenship as contradistinguished from a State citizenship, and have come to recognize the policy of a supervision of elections by the general government in certain cases, will now be ready to do away with the cumbersome machinery of the electoral college, and give their votes directly for the candidate they would elect to the high offices of President and Vice-President.

The theory of our Government is strictly republican, only differing from a pure democracy by reason of public functions being exercised by representatives of the people instead of the people themselves. The President is a representative of the whole people, and his acts are in behalf of every citizen. He should have no sectional partiality, and should not recognize any State lines in the performance of his high duties, and should owe his election to the same masters he serves. This would necessitate a direct vote of the people, and would require that the President receive a larger number of the popular votes than any other candidate. Under our present system a President may be legally elected, although his opponent receives a majority of many thousands of the popular vote. A majority of one vote in the State of New York, for instance, not only overcomes a thirty thousand majority the other way in Vermont, but would overbalance her if she had united with her five other States of equal Congressional representation, and equal popular majorities. It can readily be seen how the President may thus be the choice of only a minority of the voting population.

Senator Morton, the chairman of the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections, is now in Washington busily engaged in preparing the report of his committee upon this subject. He is enthusiastic in his desire for a reform on this subject, and, sinking all political or partisan prejudices, he is earnestly at work to secure a unanimous report of his committee that will go "ringing through the country" and arouse the press and people to demand a reform on this great question. We are not apprised of what the committee will advise, except what is reported from conversations with Mr. Morton, but from them we gather that the scheme will involve a direct vote, and entirely obliterate the electoral college, and that far the American people will favor it, only demanding that in the details of the new measure the utmost simplicity consistent with the circumstances shall be adopted, and that the method of conducting elections shall be direct, with no useless machinery. We must have more directness and straight-forward ways of doing things, and we shall thereby arrive at more satisfactory results, and destroy many of the facilities for fraud and speculation that are now the curse of the country. The electoral college does not answer the purpose intended; it is a useless appendage to our government, and the quicker we get rid of it the better for all concerned.

THE LESSON OF MINNEVILLE.

The strikers of Minneville having resumed work again, under an arrangement with the owners of the mines, it is proper that they should now count the cost and learn wisdom from their experience. The scene of this strike is in the town of Moriah, about six miles back from Port Henry, on the west side of Lake Champlain. The whole number of miners working in the ore-beds in that vicinity is about two thousand, of whom from sixteen to seventeen hundred were engaged in the strike. A Protective or Benevolent "Union" has existed among these miners for some time past, and the proprietors of the mines had before donated to the "Union," for the benevolent objects of their organization, the sum of twelve thousand dollars, of which two thousand had been paid over, and the remainder had been held where it could be disbursed when needed.

A few weeks ago the miners asked for and obtained an increase of wages of thirty cents per day. All had been harmonious between the employers and the laborers for some time, until about two weeks ago a slight altercation took place between a foreman and one of the laborers in one of the sections, for which the man was discharged. The "Union" at once arrogated to themselves the con-

trol of the works and demanded the restoration of the man or the dismissal of the foreman. The managers and the proprietors refused to comply with either demand, and the men struck. The effect of this strike was to at once stop the works and also to stop the circulation of about five thousand dollars per day of the pay of the laborers. This at once caused a stagnation in the business of the vicinity, and unless the miners had come to their senses and resumed work would have resulted in great suffering among them.

On Wednesday the leaders of the "union" movement began to see the ruinous consequences, that would flow from their strike, if continued, and they made advances to the employers for a compromise, and in behalf and by the authority of the Miners' Benevolent Union, of Minneville, made the following propositions:

1st. They to give up all claim to the balance of money donated to their union by their employers.

2d. Their employers to have full power to hire and discharge men, but no man to be discharged for being a member of their organization, or through any spite or personal ill feeling on the part of a foreman or agent.—On these conditions they propose to work at the rate of two dollars and sixty cents per day till the first day of May next.

3d. They propose the two thousand dollars paid on account of the twelve thousand dollars donation shall be refunded.

The employers refused to accede to these terms, but in turn made the following proposition to the miners:

1st. That no more union money is to be paid.

2d. Rates of wages to continue the same till first of May next.

3d. They to hire or discharge when they please, either for cause or without cause, without being questioned for so doing.

4th. If either party wish for a change of wages after first of May next, they shall give at least fifteen days' notice to the other.

After considering this proposition, the laborers accepted it, and resumed work, and the strike was ended, resulting, as we have before stated, in a loss of some fifty thousand dollars to the members of the "union." This consequence must be the general result of strikes, brought about by laborers or trade "unions." When a "union" keeps within the legitimate sphere of mutual improvement, social enjoyment, or even co-operation in the providing of the necessities and comforts of life, it is a protection and a benefit to its members, but when it arrogates to itself the management of other people's business, and seeks to control employers, or inaugurates strikes, it is a delusion and a snare. An organization that tries to prevent its members or others from performing labor, except under rules that it prescribes, deserves the execration of all good men, and should at once sink under the hand of public disapprobation, as being inconsistent with the rights of a free people, and dangerous to the business interests of the community.

CARPET-BAGGERS.

The people of the North have great sympathy for the overworked States below Mason and Dixon's line, that must over and over again be a bankrupt treasury. We little understand the losses they have suffered, in the depreciation of their property by the ravages of war, especially when we take into the estimate the fact that many millions were invested in slaves, that were as absolutely lost as was the value of burned cotton or ravished plantations; but we solemnly protest against the Southern people charging upon us of the north the inebriety of the carpet-bag rule that has settled upon the South. The war itself was the work of the South, and the consequences following directly from that cause, they have only themselves to thank for, and heavy as the burden may be, the North can not be charged with unnecessary cruelty in conducting the war to a successful termination. When they invited a trial with fire and sword, they had full knowledge that fire would burn, and the sword cut keenly, and they must fully have understood that they must prevail by the weapons they appealed to, or submit to be conquered by them.

But the great complaint comes from the refusal of the loyal north, when the fight was over, to permit them to recover in the political arena what they had lost on the battlefield. The Southern politicians refused to abandon their old notion of the subjugation of the colored race. This made harsh methods of reconstruction necessary, to secure justice to an entire race. The disorganized society and uncultivated fields of the South, invited northern enterprise and capital to bring back peace and order to the one, and fertility and heavy crops to the other. With the enterprise and virtue that we sent them there was a large percent of unscrupulous adventurers; but the boasted chivalry and renowned statesmanship of the north, must not blame us that they allowed the miserable carpet-baggers to assume and control politics, and burden an impoverished people with unjust taxes.

It appears to us that the South has the remedy in her own hands. They must, however, overcome the Ku-Klux lawlessness of their own people; they must demonstrate to the colored race that they intend to administer an even handed justice, and that no person is to be proscribed on account of race and color, before they can expect the negro vote to be bestowed in favor of their measures or candidates. When the leading white men of the South will accept, in good faith, some such plan as that suggested by General Beauregard, and stop their war of races, they need not fear that unprincipled carpet-baggers will usurp the affections and secure the votes of the negroes; but as the law of self-defence is the first law of nature, they may expect the dusky voters of the State, will seek the best protection offered to them, so long as the Southern white men show a disposition to oppress them.

Then our Southern brethren will bear with us while we suggest that their treatment of Northern men who come to reside with them should be modified somewhat; for what they can expect the best results. The negroes look to Northern men as their deliverers from slavery, and every act of lawlessness against these friends is correctly understood, as an assault upon them and upon others on their account.

Vermont has no cause for self-upbraiding on account of her sons in the South. She sent such men as Dickinson to live in and enrich the South, and the rebellious spirit which kills them, makes it possible for her James H. Platt, Jr., to

go there and rule over them. The race of carpet-baggers would soon become extinct if the South would fill up her bloody chasm, and do justice to all men. She has the remedy in her own hands, and cannot blame us that she does not use it.

(Correspondence of the Herald.)

Jottings of European Travel.

ROCHELLE, Eng., July 31, 1873.

Editor Rutland Herald.—Once more an opportunity presents itself to write a few additional notes of European travel; and yet, at the outset, I am aware that I am about to write of places and objects of interest with which your readers must be very familiar, having been frequently described by pens wielded by an almost heavenly inspiration.

My last communication dated from Antwerp, Belgium, the home of Rubens and the depository of his best treasures. On the same day I sailed down a noble river Scheldt to Flushing in Holland, and thence across the German Ocean to Harwich, England.

The scenery all along the Scheldt is quite tame, the country on the right and left being very low and flat; especially is this true of Holland, which lies so much below the level of the sea and Scheldt that the entire coast is dyked or embanked, and at a very great cost to the Dutch Government, kept in repair. If you would see Holland from the deck of a Scheldt steamer, you must mount the bulwarks and lift yourself on tiptoe to look over the continuous line of dykes before you can see the flat but fruitful farms, the clean cottages and quiet villages of that industrious, peace-loving people. It may very truly be said of this country, in the language of scripture: "Holland is my washpot."

On arriving at Harwich, early on the morning of the 15th inst., I was immediately made conscious of the fact that I had left the priest-burdened, semi-barbarous continent, and that I was in Christian England, for the very first sight that my eyes looked upon was a company of brutishly drunken men. Of course, such scenes (as common in England as in New York), make a thoughtful person thankful that he was not born in France, Italy or Switzerland, where drunkenness is rarely seen and almost unknown.

From Harwich to London is a brief ride of two hours through a very pleasant, fertile, undulating country, where unwearied travel has brought forth abundant fruit, and caused the wilderness to blossom as the rose.

Having reached London, the question arose, how shall I best improve the limited time at my disposal, so as to see the most and best of this great city? And reaching the conclusion, that in London, as on the continent and elsewhere, he can do no more than work systematically, I took a map and guide, a plan was adopted by which, in nine days, many places and objects of great scientific and historic interest were visited, including St. Paul's, with its magnificent architecture, noble dome, whispering gallery, elegant chancel, ancient clock, and repository of the warrior dead; Westminster Abbey, with its venerable, purely Gothic outline; its rich groups of statues, monuments and tablets; its poets' corner, where repose the bones of so many noted men whose works survive them—prominent among which, as we find by a simple record in gilt letters, are the remains of Charles Dickens.

A few miles of canal service daily rendered in this venerable cathedral is, to a musical ear, almost undesirable. We were glad to avail ourselves of the privilege, not always offered, of seeing the state apartments at Windsor Castle, which privilege is granted the public during the absence of the Queen. Here I roamed through the Queen's drawing-rooms, reception rooms, state dining hall, gallery, and museum, and ascended the ramparts and tower, from the top of which I was enabled to overlook the adjacent country for miles around, including the noble Windsor park, of three thousand acres, adorned with noble trees and filled with herds of deer; also the renowned long walk and Virginia water, and in the opposite direction Eton College, where the sons of noble or gentle blood are trained for Oxford or Cambridge. A visit to Windsor is a pleasure that will long linger in the memory.

I spent many interesting hours at Regent's Park and Zoological Gardens, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, St. James' Park and Buckingham Palace, the city home of Queen Victoria, the Crystal Palace and Gardens at Sydenham, and Cremorne Gardens in Chelsea; and the conclusion reached by my own mind, from the number, size and beauty of these parks and public gardens, is that London has done more for the recreation and health of her people, and has done more to interest the sojourner stranger than any other city in the world. The British Museum, with its rich treasures, gathered from every part of the world, and representing every age, was visited with grateful interest, and I am quite sure, with lasting profit.

I also visited the Tower of London of bloody fame, where are stored the weapons and armor of many mighty kings and warriors of centuries long gone by; also the head block, executioner's axe, thumb-screw, spiked collar, etc., of dreadful memory.

I must not forget to note a visit made to Bunhill Field's burial grounds, where I stood at the graves of John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, John Wesley, Adam Clarke, Richard Watson, and Mr. Benson. Here also, I visited Wesley's chapel, stood in the pulpit, from which he so long and eloquently discoursed to the people. I sat in his old vestry chair, looked upon his old parsonage, and leaned upon his tomb; all of which (though a reputed close communion Baptist) was grateful to my revering heart.

Leaving London proper, for what is termed the Surrey Side, on the morning of Lord's Day, July 20th, I found my way to the "Tavernham," with an earnest desire to see and hear Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. Entering this vast place of worship I was surprised to see a congregation of 7,000 people, all eagerly looking in one direction, all apparently full of rich blessing for which they had come; but a wave of sweet relief swept over the vast concourse as the portly form of the inimitable preacher was seen to painfully approach the post of duty, and immediately commences the simple but effective service in a voice clear and full. Of course I have no space for an analysis of the service and

sermon; suffice it to say that I never heard such a voice, never listened to such rich sympathetic instruction, coming from a heart full of the love of the Master, and unclouded by affliction.

I could not resist the earnest wish that I could have chorists could hear the mighty volume of song that went up from these 7,000 tongues; I am quite sure that it needs only to be heard to be approved and adopted by all of them.

At the close of the service I obtained an interview with Mr. Spurgeon, in his study, in the course of which he expressed his interest in America and in American institutions, and inquired, especially, with reference to Vermont. My earnest prayer is that God will long spare this great and good man, to the church and to the world.

On the morning of the 24th, I left London for Oxford, the great seat of English learning, where, through the influence and personal attention of Mr. Coleridge, I was admitted to many of the best colleges and churches located here.

The colleges are twenty in number, all enjoying private endowments, and affording what is claimed to be a superior education to 7,000 students; but there is an air of exclusiveness about them all, that is suffocating to an ostrich-necked tourist, for many if not all of them, have been established under the patronage of the State, in the interest of the established church. Oxford is the home of Dr. Pusey, and the holder of a "Puseyism," or as we now term it, "Ritualism," and to such an extent has the noxious weeds grown in the dear old mother church, around this her educational hearstone, that in grand choral service the altar is illuminated with one hundred candles, and the clergy arrayed in priestly robes; the confessional is established, the calvary of the ministry instituted, and the altar, and sisterhoods of mercy organized, and yet, as an credibly informed by those who have had every opportunity of knowing the inside of these things, they are not at all repulsive, and are, in fact, a credit to the church of Rome and her priesthood; but, between the two, the sympathies of every thoughtful person must be with the Romish priesthood, that openly worships in harmony with its professions, and not under borrowed glitter.

From Oxford to Leamington is a pleasant ride of two hours through a flat but fertile and highly cultivated agricultural region. Leamington is noted as a popular watering place; its saline springs, and its mineral waters, and its quiet life, can boast a bright, pure atmosphere, fine buildings, clean streets and very fashionable society. In all respects it is a gem of the English coast, superior to Saratoga, and the difference of the cost of living through the season would almost defray the expense of the sea voyage.

Leamington is of importance to the tourist as the centre from which he can readily make detours to other places and objects of interest.

From Leamington to the old ivy covered ruin, occupying a prominent niche in history, and immortalized by the pen of Sir Walter Scott, is located about four miles away, and we caught somewhat of the spirit of the old times, when we passed the roofless halls and ivy-covered passages.

Warwick Castle, rich in historic association, paintings, sculpture, ancient armor, and weapons, adorned with high towers, turreted walls, massive gates, deep moats, an extensive park, fine old cedars and English oaks, is a gem of the English coast, within two miles of Leamington.

The Earl of Warwick occupies a great boon on the public in throwing open these treasures for their inspection.

A few miles from Warwick is Stratford-on-Avon, the home of Shakespeare. I visited his home, his grave in Stratford church, and stopped for the night in the "Fleece," where he was accustomed to resort to smoke his pipe.

Anglo.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

The Isles of Shoals.

NORTH HAMPTON, N. H., Aug. 15.

Editor of the Rutland Herald.—The islands were discovered by Captain John Smith, in 1614. The abundance of fish in these waters, and the large profits to be realized by these fisheries, was the first inducement to emigrants to settle upon these bleak and desolate islands. The fish were shipped to England and found a ready sale, especially among the Catholics, whose religion has ever been favorable to the interests of the fisherman.

These islands derive their name from the shoaling of the fish in their vicinity. The group consists of seven islands, and beginning on the south, may be named in their order as follows: "White Island, Longdon, Star, Cedar, Smuttynose, Appledore and Duck Island. Of these Appledore (formerly Hog Island) is the largest, containing about 1,000 acres. There was formerly quite a settlement here, but not one of the former houses remain—the only house at present on the island being the Appledore House, kept by the Messrs. Lighthouse. This house has received additions and improvements from time to time till it is capable of accommodating about 300 guests. It is three and four stories high, has a music room nearly 100 feet by 60, furnished with a piano and splendid Mason & Hamlin cabinet organ. This answers the double purpose of a dancing hall of evenings and a church on the Sabbath. There are spacious billiard rooms, ball alleys, reading rooms, ladies' parlors, etc.

Until the present year the steamers and sailing vessels anchored over several rods from the shore, and passengers and freight were landed by means of dories, which were towed by a small boat, or agreeable, especially in rough weather.

Now there is a convenient wharf, at which the steamers and other boats land. The house is lighted by gas made on the premises.

There are boats in readiness to take parties out for a sail among the islands or to the main land. We are awakened in the morning not by the hateful gong, but by a bugle, sounding its melodious calls through the halls and corridors.

In our bill of fare, not only the fishes of the sea but the fowls of the air and fowls of the earth are well represented.

There is little attempt at display at Appledore. Young ladies—many not young—wear certainly the blue flannel suit, without hoops or corset.

There are no roads on any of the islands. There is no more opportunity for drives than in Venice or modern Jerusalem. There is not even a footpath, except the irregular one leading from the wharf to the house. All these islands are as bare, bleak and desolate as anything we have any knowledge of on any wild New England shore. They consist of rugged masses of granite rock, with here and there a patch of soil, in which weeds and grasses struggle for a precarious foothold. It would seem as if creative power, in its journey westward to establish the North American continent, commenced at the Isles of Shoals, with a view to make the main land, but the materials worked so badly and the job was so unsatisfactory, that it was abandoned in disgust, and the

main land commenced with better success a few miles further on.

Star Island, so called from its fancied resemblance to a star, contains only about 150 acres, and in general appearance resembles Appledore—has the same rocky border, presenting in places a gentle incline to the sea, and in others rises in a bold, jagged wall, fifty or sixty feet, almost perpendicularly. A heavy sea beats against these rocks in tones of thunder, sending up columns of spray sixty or seventy feet in the air. On this island was the ancient town of Gosport, where nearly all the inhabitants of the islands live.

Last year nearly the whole island was purchased by the new hotel company, who have built a splendid hotel—the "Oceanic"—probably the best and largest on the New England coast. It has all the appointments of a first-class city hotel. The company has built a wharf, purchased a fast sailing steamer to ply between Star Island and Portsmouth, and furnish boats for fishing or pleasure parties. The "Oceanic" is already a formidable rival of the "Appledore," and its enterprising proprietors will leave no stone unturned to make it the most desirable place on the islands.

A fine band greets us on our arrival, and discourses sweet music while we dine, and plays Strauss' waltzes and other suitable music for those who "trip the lark fantastic toe." Now most of us have no *fandango* toes, and if we have, we have exercised them sufficiently, scrambling among the rocks, to the wild music of the waves.

"Smuttynose," the third island in size, contains about 1,000 acres. It is at present uninhabited, has only three houses, one of which was the scene of the fearful murder by the wretch Wessner, who, late last fall, landed on this lovely island, during the absence of the fisherman, and for the sake of \$500—the amount of the season's earnings—in the most brutal manner murdered the fisherman, and then, to the horror of the third, who came to tell the dreadful tale, running to the extreme end of the island, hiding till morning, almost frozen. The story of this horrible crime is a sad and ghastly chapter in the history of the islands, and the relief of the surviving woman, on hearing her cries from Appledore.

If any of our rough land continental notions of hanging for murder, I think they were pretty effectually dissipated before we left Smuttynose island that morning. Here, on this island lived the good Captain Haley, who found five bags of silver among the rocks—possibly a portion of Capt. Kidd's buried treasure. With this he built a strong sea-wall between this island and Malaga, connecting the two islands, and forming a harbor for the protection of seamen in "distress of weather." Every night he placed a candle in his window, as a warning to seamen, and it was not until January 13th, 1813, the ship *Sagunto, from Cadiz, was wrecked on the point of Smuttynose. Our guide pointed out the sixteen graves of the sailors, who were washed ashore and buried, with rude slabs of unlettered granite to mark their resting place.*

Duck Island lies about two miles north of Smuttynose, and is a very interesting spot, except by the sky-sea-fowls which slun the nearer isles. It is a long, low line of rocks, with ledges running into the sea, rendering the locality very dangerous to mariners.

Cedar Island, about a mile southeast of Smuttynose, is a very interesting spot, except by the sky-sea-fowls which slun the nearer isles. It is a long, low line of rocks, with ledges running into the sea, rendering the locality very dangerous to mariners.

Longdon Island, near by, containing about twenty acres, makes up the seven islands. Besides these are numerous smaller islets, and a few low, rocky islets. There is a dangerous reef of rocks about four miles to the eastward, called by the significant title of the "Old Harry." The highest land or rock in these islands is only seventy-five feet above high tide.

In my next I will answer the question, "How do you spend your time at the Isles of Shoals?"

BENNINGTON'S GALA DAY.

The 16th of August Celebration.

PARADE OF THE N. A. J.

GRAND FIREMEN'S MUSTER.

THE "WESTERN," OF BRATTLEBORO, TAKES THE FIRST PRIZE—THE "ROUGH AND READY," OF GREENWICH, N. Y., THE SECOND—THE "OCEAN," OF CHATHAM, N. Y., THE THIRD.

Notwithstanding the threatening weather of early morning, Saturday turned out as beautiful and bright a day as could be desired. A rain fell just enough to lay the dust before ten o'clock, but after that hour the sky cleared up, and what clouds afterwards appeared, if they did create apprehensions of drippings yet to be, certainly did not fulfill their promise, but rather performed the welcome office of curtains to shade all from the fierce heat of the sun, whose beams, straggling through here and there, gave a taste of what he could do if let alone.

The train over the Harlem Extension, from Rutland, was the first to arrive in Bennington. It consisted of twelve well-loaded coaches and three platform cars, fitted up for excursionists, besides the one carrying Nickwackett's engine, and a Pullman car for the ladies. The Rutland train was quite well filled with the firemen and their friends, but as they proceeded, the numerous accessions at other stations crowded the cars and rendered it necessary for others to be attached to accommodate the increasing throng. It seemed that most of the lads and lassies of Rutland and Bennington counties were bent upon doing honor to the Starks (Molly and the other one) and were going to Bennington for once, at least, to see the sights, eat gingerbread and drink lemonade, and "darn the wheels."

On arriving, the firemen were met at the depot by the marshals and committee of arrangements, and by these and the Bennington Cornet Band, escorted up town to their quarters. The streets were then full of people, and we don't know where those who came in afterwards went to, or where they stowed themselves away. They certainly did continue to arrive all day, but the town was full early in the morning. At nine o'clock all were waiting in anxious expectancy for the R. A. J. procession, which was to take place at that hour.

Contrary to the custom, this affair was on time, and such an affair, which would attempt to describe it! It was the most miscellaneous, incomparable, nondescript collection of promiscuous humanity, animal life, mechanical device and strange, weird and fantastic costume imaginable. The orations were of a piece with the procession and its component parts, containing many local hits which were enjoyed hugely by the

crowd. Indeed, the whole thing had a significance purely local, but was, nevertheless, considered very "funny" by the country people, and tickled the young folks and children immensely. After the "invariable rable," as we heard some unappreciative fellow call them, had vacated the streets, or when the noon hour had nearly arrived, the bands and fire companies marched to the depot, where the grand procession was formed, under the direction of Chief Marshal A. B. Valentine and Chief Engineer J. V. Carney. The former was assisted by Capt. E. I. Houghton, Col. J. E. Pratt, Major J. H. Woodman and H. W. Pratt, while C. W. Benton acted as an efficient aid to Chief Engineer Carney.

The following was the order in which the procession moved:

Marshals, mounted.
Bennington Cornet Band, with drums.
North Adams Light Guard, or "Boys in Blue," with drums.
Bennington Steam Company, with machine, as escort.
Rough and Ready Fire Co., No. 2, of Greenwich, N. Y., with drums.
Edmonds Fire Company No. 1, of Hudson, N. Y.

Hyland House, of Hudson, N. Y.
J. J. Gray Fire Company No. 1, of Cambridge, N. Y.
Gray Fire Co., of Cambridge, N. Y.
Lee's Brass Band, Hudson, N. Y.

Ocean Fire Co., No. 1, of Chatham, N. Y.
Western Fire Company No. 1, West Brattleboro, with drums.
Sherman Cornet Band, Winoski.
Nickwackett Fire Co., No. 1, Rutland. President and officers of the day, and distinguished visitors in carriages.

Members of the press and invited guests in carriages.

The line of march was that laid down in the programme, and as follows: From depot to North street, up North to Pleasant, up Pleasant to Willow, through Willow to Union, up Union to Main, and up to Bradford's, down Main to the court house. Forming about the stand, which was occupied by the officers of the day, a large number of distinguished persons, invited guests and representatives of the press, a brief and pertinent address of welcome was delivered by Hon. T. W. Park, President of the day, whose remarks were, substantially, as follows:

Ninety-six years ago to-day our forefathers met in battle and conquered an enemy. Often since we have celebrated that proud victory and its glorious consequences. And there is no more appropriate way in which to commemorate that successful fight than by the gathering of the noble men who fight fire when it threatens to become our master instead of our servant. Therefore, in behalf of the citizens and firemen of Bennington, I bid you welcome, and hope that in the friendly contest this afternoon you may all win.

This speech was received with cheers by the boys, tired as they were by the long march just completed, and many a hearty "thank you" was said in Mr. Park's behalf, for not inflicting a long speech on the crowd, "just because he had a chance." We even heard one enthusiastic individual declare it as his honest belief that Park is the right man for Governor. However, this is hardly in place in this report and we pass on, as did all about them to the dinner.

Ample provision had been made for feeding the firemen and they were at once taken in charge by the Bennington boys and conducted to the tables, where full justice was done the creature comforts provided. Others went to the different hotels to supply the inner man, and these as well as the restaurants and feeding booths, which were plentifully scattered about town, were patronized to an extent that proved their utmost capacity.

We, our party, consisting of members of the press and a few other gentlemen, went to the Gates House, where dinner was provided for us. The dinner was an excellent one, and the way that things went out of sight at that festive board must have been a warning to hotel keepers to beware of gentlemen of the quill. That we did substantial justice to the viands was fully proven by the scarcity of chickens and things after our adjournment to the grounds to witness the throwing for prizes.

It was at first intended to have the contest near the new Court House, jail, hotel, etc., and a reservoir from which to draw water for the engines was placed at the corner near the now mentioned useful monumental (commemorative of what?) pile, and opposite the Stark House. This *reservoir*, however, proved too small and other arrangements had to be made, which resulted in sending the contestants nearly a mile further up-town to a point on the river, near Gates' hotel. Here at last collected all creation and a few other folks. It was hot, but nobody minded that, for now the fun was to come in. The people were so thick that one with difficulty made any progress in traveling from point to point. Women's destructible fineries, gents' plug hats, etc., were used and misused with a disregard for their future utility and present appearance, that must have made any dealers in these articles of use and ornamentation, who may have been present, happy at the thought of the trade in prospect for them, and cerns were at such a discount that more than one unearthly howl and half-smothered oath went up as the hand went down to explore about the injured party. Finally all was ready for the contest. The machines were placed upon a bridge, and up the road three hundred feet away was the stand for the pipemen. Some two hundred feet further off were the judges, with paper spread upon boards for some feat to determine the distance thrown by each. All along the line from the position of the engine while playing, were rows of uniformed firemen doing police duty and keeping the hose from being interfered with, as well as restraining the crowd. There were other policemen and citizens engaged in this duty, prominent among whom were Supt. F. C. White, and some Rutland men.

The following is a description of the machines, with a list of their officers:

Rough and Ready, No. 2, Greenwich, N. Y., H. A. Knapp, foreman; R. E. Ferguson, 1st assistant; F. A. Bristol, secretary; W. J. Stewart, treasurer. Tub, Button & Blake, Waterford, N. Y., H. L. cylinder 6-inch, stroke 7-inch, fifty men.

Edmonds, No. 1, Hudson, N. Y., C. B. Cure, foreman; A. R. Spangue, 1st assistant; G. F. Holienbeck, 2d assistant; Lewis H. George, secretary; Valentine Raab, treasurer. Machine built by Smith, New York, cylinder 8-inch, stroke 9-inch, sixty men. Accompanied by Hyland House, thirty men, Chas. Campbell, foreman.

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J. J. Gray, No. 1, Cambridge, N. Y., C. E. Warner, foreman; Wales M. Barton, 1st assistant; Walter Graham, 2d assistant; Charles Starr, secretary; P. Cramer, treasurer. Machine, Davis make, built at Troy, cylinder 8-inch, stroke 9-inch, sixty men. Accompanied by Gray House, Chatham, N. Y., Miles Beach, foreman; Ellis Seymour, 1st assistant; Oscar Willy, 2d assistant; H. A. Blunt, secretary; Harvey Seymour, treasurer. Engine, Button & Blake, Waterford, makers, cylinder 6-inch, stroke 7-inch, sixty men.

Western, No. 1, West Brattleboro, John Seargent, foreman; Will Ellis, 1st assistant; H. D. Bassett, 2d assistant; Newman Clark, clerk and treasurer. Hunneman built tub, cylinder 6-inch, stroke 12-inch, sixty men.

Nickwackett, No. 1, Rutland, N. F. Page, foreman; Clark Long, 1st assistant; A. Austin, 2d assistant; W. A. Walker, secretary; Ed. Southwick, treasurer; Henry Austin, foreman leading hose; Ed. LaRoe, foreman section hose; Engine, Cowing & Co. builders, Seneca Falls, N. Y., cylinder 9-inch, stroke 8-inch, sixty men.

The companies played in order as above, Rutland being last. The air was still and calm at first, but gradually brisked up the while, and when Nickwackett threw there was quite a breeze stirring.